

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified application in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 2. The claim amendments were made to more precisely define the invention in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 2. These amendments have not been necessitated by the need to distinguish the present invention from any prior art. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by these amendments, as support therefor is found throughout the specification and drawings.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0151161 to Furusawa in view of Japanese Published Patent Application No. JP 2002-324966 to Goto.

Furusawa discloses a method for forming a conductive pattern directly on a substrate. As can be seen in Figures 1-3, the substrate has a patterned film 12 placed thereon by photolithographic techniques. Indeed, the Applicant's representative notes that removing the need for such costly and complicated techniques is exactly the procedure that the subject invention achieves. Upon completion of using photolithography to pattern the film 12, the substrate 11 has exposed lyophilic regions 11a that have wettability and unexposed lyophobic regions 11b (i.e., the remaining film 12) that have no wettability. Then, a fine particle dispersion solution 14 is applied selectively to the lyophilic regions 11a as shown in Figure 4 and as emphasized as the necessity of the invention in paragraph 48. Preferably, Furusawa uses an inkjet system for this but regardless of the technology, the selective application is only to the lyophilic

regions 11a. In a third step, the fine particle dispersion solution 14 is heat-treated to convert the coating film 15 into a conductive film 16.

Goto uses an electrically conductive metal paste dispensed by an inkjet system to draw a circuit pattern on a wiring substrate. The metal paste is metal particles scattered in a resin composition that acts as an organic binder. Goto does not teach or suggest an adhesive layer as recited by the claims.

It is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art to which the subject invention appertains would not have been motivated to combine Furusawa with Goto as suggested by the Examiner. Furusawa explicitly recognizes that “according to necessity, the second self-organizing film is formed on only the lyophilic region of the substrate having a pattern of a lyophilic region and a lyophobic region” (see paragraph 48). As such, application of the method of Goto would destroy this necessity and the method of Furusawa would not work. Thus, a motivation, teaching or suggestion to combine these references in the manner suggested by the Examiner is not present. Accordingly, Applicant's representative asserts that the combination is improper and Claims 1-15 are patentable over the combination of Furusawa and Goto.

Furthermore for the sake of argument, even if the references of Furusawa and Goto were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the claimed invention would not be obtained. There is nothing in either of these references that discloses or suggests, either alone or in combination, in whole or in part, the device defined by Claim 1 of the subject application. In particular, there is nothing in either Furusawa or Goto which discloses or suggests, a method for forming a pattern by a droplet discharge system, including preparing a substrate at least one surface of which is an adhesive face having specified

adhesion, the substrate having a base and an adhesive layer completely covering the base to form the adhesive face, disposing droplets of a liquid containing particles dispersed in a solvent in a specified pattern on the adhesive face of the substrate by a droplet discharge system and vaporizing the solvent from the droplets to form a particle layer in the specified pattern on the adhesive layer of the substrate. As the Examiner noted, the method of Furusawa dispenses the film directly on the base, obviously, because it has no adhesive layer. As noted above, Goto does not cure this deficiency. Goto simply teaches drawing a pattern using a paste that acts as an organic binder. Claims 2 and 3 have similar limitations. Thus, Claims 1-3 and each of the claims depending therefrom are not rendered obvious by the combination of references cited by the Examiner, and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

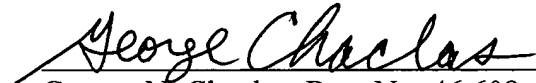
Turning to Claims 5, 14 and each of the claims depending therefrom, the Examiner took Official Notice that several limitations (not found in the cited combination) of the claims are well-known and conventional in the art. The Applicant's representative hereby seasonably traverses such Official Notice and requests evidence in support of same in the event that the rejections are maintained. As stated in the MPEP, section 2144.03, official notice unsupported by documentary evidence should only be taken by the Examiner where the facts asserted to be well-known, or to be common knowledge in the art are capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known. The MPEP further states that it is never appropriate to rely solely on "common knowledge" in the art without evidentiary support in the record, as the principal evidence upon which a rejection was based. *Zurko*, 258 F.3d at 1385, 59 USPQ2d at 1697. One must point to some concrete evidence in the record in support of these findings.

Any additional fees or overpayments due as a result of filing the present paper may be applied to Deposit Account No. 04-1105. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this amendment, the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number set forth herein below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 17, 2006


George N. Chaclas, Reg. No. 46,608
Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP
Attorney for Applicants
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
Tel: (401) 276-6653
Fax: (888) 325-1684
Email: gchaclas@eapdlaw.com